

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[NV-057-5865-NU]

Shooting, Off-Highway Vehicle and Camping Closure in Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, Las Vegas Field Office

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, Las Vegas Field Office, Nevada.

ACTION: Establishment of an Emergency Closure to Shooting, Off-Highway Vehicles, and Camping within the boundaries of Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered public lands of Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area (Sloan Canyon NCA) have been temporarily closed to shooting of firearms, Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) and camping under this Emergency Closure Notice. This closure is being implemented to ensure public safety and health, protect property adjacent to selected public lands and to prevent environmental degradation. In addition, this action is being taken to reduce the amount of dust and particulate matter generated from the use of public lands. National Conservation Areas are designated by Congress to conserve, protect, enhance and manage public land areas for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Sloan Canyon was designated as a National Conservation Area in 2002. The rapid increase in population and growth within Clark County, Nevada has created conflicts between new residential areas and traditional public land users. Chronic abuse of Sloan Canyon NCA include unregulated and indiscriminate firearms use, uncontrolled off-road vehicle use, parties with illegal bonfires, stolen vehicles and property being burned or dumped (wire burning), yard and household waste accumulation from illegal dumping, illegal camping or occupancy, illegal trail building are all contributing to the degradation of Sloan Canyon NCA. Until the BLM completes the Supplementary Rules for Sloan Canyon NCA the Emergency Closure is necessary to protect the public and the natural resources that the area has to offer. BLM will post closure signs at main entry points to this area. You may obtain maps of the closure area and information from the Las Vegas Field Office.

DATES: This closure will be in effect from November 3, 2006 until the Las Vegas Field Office completes the Supplementary Rules for Sloan Canyon NCA which will establish permanent rules for the public use of the property.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Chief Ranger Erika Schumacher 702-515-5030; Las Vegas Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Dr, Las Vegas, NV 89130, (702) 515-5000

DISCUSSION OF THE RULES: The closure order is issued under the authority of 43 CFR Part 8364.1. Violation of any of the terms, conditions or restrictions contained within this closure order, may subject the violator to citation or arrest, with a penalty of fine or imprisonment or both as specified by law.

PENALTIES: Violation of any regulations in this part by a member of the public is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$1000 and/or imprisonment not to exceed 12 months.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The BLM is establishing this Emergency Closure under the authority of 43 CFR 8364.1 which allows BLM State Directors to establish closures for the protection of persons, property, and public lands and resources. This provision allows the BLM to issue closures of less than national effect without codifying the rules in the Code of Federal Regulations.

Closure Area

Public Lands affected are within the following described area: T22S, R62E, Section 34-36; T23S, R62E, Section 1-5, 8-17, 19-36; T23S, R63E, Section 6,7,18; T23S, R61E, Section 25-28, 33-36; T24S, R61E, Section 1-4, 9-15, 22-25, 36; T24S, R62E, Section 1-21, 28-33.

Maps Depicting the area affected by this closure order are available for public inspection at the Las Vegas Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Exceptions to Closure

1. Any Federal, State, or local officer or employee in the scope of their duties.
2. Members of any organized rescue or fire-fighting force in performance of an official duty.
3. Any person authorized in writing by the Bureau of Land Management.
4. Off-Highway Vehicle use on posted/signed, designated routes only.
5. Hunting with valid state hunting license and in accordance with the laws and regulations of the State of Nevada.
6. Camping in authorized areas as identified in the Resource Management Plan for Sloan Canyon NCA.

Closure Restrictions

Unless otherwise authorized, within the closure area no person shall:

- a) Discharge any firearm.
- b) Possess any firearm in violation of Federal, State or County regulations.
- c) Operate an Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) or motor vehicle off of a posted designated roads and/or trails.
- d) Take, drive, or operate any OHV or motor vehicle through, around or beyond a restrictive sign, barricade, fence, or traffic control barrier or device.

- e) Camp or engage in camping.
- f) Park, stop or leave personal property, whether attended or unattended.
- g) Park any vehicle in violation of posted restrictions, or in such a manner as to obstruct or impede normal or emergency traffic movement, create a safety hazard, or endanger any person, property, or natural feature. Vehicles so parked are subject to citation and impoundment at the owner's expense.

Definitions:

Firearm: Any weapon capable of firing a projectile including but not limited to rifle, shotgun, handgun, BB-gun, pellet gun, etc.

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV): means any motorized or non-motorized mechanized vehicle designed for or capable of travel off maintained roadways including but not limited to 2 and 4 wheel drive vehicles, motorcycles, ATV's, and mountain bikes.

"Camp" or Camping means the erection of a tent or shelter, preparing a sleeping bag or other bedding material for use, or the parking of a vehicle, motor home, or trailer for the apparent purpose of sleeping or overnight occupancy.

Personal Property includes but is not limited to bicycles, vehicles (whether propelled by living or non-living power sources), motor vehicles, trailers, tents, campers, pets, and livestock.

"Public Lands" means any lands or interest in lands owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, except lands on the Outer Continental Shelf and lands held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts or Eskimos (43 CFR 1601.0-5(I)).

"Designated Road" means a road or roads identified on a map which will be available for public inspection at the Las Vegas Field Office, Bureau of Land Management. These roads will be posted as a designated route.

"Designated Trails" means a trail, trails or routes, identified on a map available for public inspection at the Las Vegas Field Office, bureau of Land Management. These trails will be posted as a designated trail.

Dated:
Juan Palma
Field Manager
Las Vegas field Office

Figure 2.6. Camping

